



Ralph Lester Collins

July 5, 1948 - December 15, 2024

Ralph Lester Collins, 76 of Higginsville went to be with the Lord on December 15, 2024 at his home. He was born on July 5, 1948 in Mayview MO, the son of John William Collins and Ethel LaVerne (Turner) Collins.

He is preceded in death by his parents and three siblings, sister Geraldean Collins, brothers, John Calvin Collins and Raymond Wade Collins.

Ralph was a graduate of Concordia High School in 1966. After attending two semesters of college, he started a long-standing career at the federal government U.S. Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service. There he was employed as a soil conservationist and retired after 40 years of service, gaining many lasting friends.

He was a lifelong resident of Higginsville, Missouri. Ralph was a dedicated and devoted member of Zion A.M.E church in Mayview, where he was named the church Man of the Year 2014-15. Ralph was also very devoted to his family and active in his community where he served as a member of the Jaycee organization for many years, as well as a school board member for the Lafayette Co C-1 school district. He provided amazing support to his children and grandchildren and loved attending all of their activities and sports from football, basketball, softball, track and many more. Ralph, as well, played and coached for many years, women's slow-pitch softball and coached his daughters' fastpitch softball teams. He loved and had a passion for deer hunting on his family farm, watching the Higginsville Huskers, the Kansas City Chiefs and Kansas City Royals. Ralph was one of a kind to his wife, family

and friends and will be missed dearly.

He leaves to cherish his memory, wife of 36 years, Linda Collins of the home; one sister Gertrude LaVerne (late John) Murrell; children, Ange Collins, LaShawn (Wade) Miller, Dawn (late Andre) Harrison, Iesha (Isaac) James and Cheri (Ricky) McDaniel; grandchildren Destanee, Daitrien, Cierra, Cirron, Paige, Natasha, Shantel; four great-grandchildren; two Aunts, Elizabeth West and Dawn Cole; close cousins Gary Turner and Michael Collins, special friend Odie Swanegan and a host of many close relatives and treasured friends.

The family will receive friends from 10AM-12PM, Monday, December 23, 2024 at Salem United Church of Christ, 1500 Main St, Higginsville, MO and a Funeral Service will follow at 12PM with Rev. Evelyn Elmore officiating. Burial will follow the service at Mount Olive Cemetery, Warrensburg, MO.

Pallbearers: Daitrien Buchanan, Wade Miller, Cirron Harrison, Isaac James, Kente Boldridge, Ricky McDaniel, Taylor Stickland. Honorary Pallbearers: Gary Turner, Michael Collins, Odie Swanegan, Rev. Glenn Elmore, Vincent Collins, Johnny Collins.

Cemetery Details

Mount Olive Cemetery

974 NE 221st Rd
Warrensburg, MO 64093

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **23**. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Salem United Church of Christ
1500 N Main St.
Higginsville, MO 64037
salemucc@ctcis.net
<http://www.salemucchigginsville.org>

Funeral Service

DEC **23**. 12:00 PM - 1:15 PM (CT)

Salem United Church of Christ
1500 N Main St.
Higginsville, MO 64037
salemucc@ctcis.net
<http://www.salemucchigginsville.org>

Tribute Wall

MS

“ 1 file added to the album Ralph funeral



Marshall Stewart Sr. - December 28, 2024 at 12:03 PM

MO

You have my prayers and condolences for Angela "AJ" Collins and family. I pray God gives you strength and peace.

Myra O'Reilly - January 09, 2025 at 01:14 PM

MO

From Eastland Family Dental

Myra O'Reilly - January 09, 2025 at 01:15 PM

JW

“ *Ralph was one of a kind. I always knew I could count on him being at the basketball game front row and coaching from the sideline. Even though I wasn't one of his kids or relatives he always made sure I knew he was there he just cared about everyone and had a heart bigger than anyone. He would talk to my parent before and after each game and came to graduation party I had. To all of Ralph family he was one of a kind and my thoughts and prayers are with u all*



Jeff Wahn - December 23, 2024 at 05:11 AM

WW

“ With love, Sherry Wiles purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ralph Lester Collins.



With love, Sherry Wiles - December 22, 2024 at 09:53 AM

RA

“ To the Collins Family I (we) extend our thoughts and prayers to having absence of Ralph come to your family. I sought advice often from him as I came into the Civil Engineering Technician word with SCS. Ralph exhibited a strength to the intangibles while giving to the few underrepresented a means to show our worth. I thank him for lending an example of class and professionalism to follow. You will be missed greatly. GBY now!!! Thanks, Rodney L. Aaron, CET

Rodney Aaron - December 19, 2024 at 10:08 PM

TS

“ The Lofts at Old Towne Staff purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Ralph Lester Collins.



The Lofts at Old Towne Staff - December 19, 2024 at 10:08 AM

OS

“ I worked with Ralph in the early 70's. He was knowledgeable and willing to help everyone if they needed help. Ralph has been a true friend to me and my family over the years. I will miss him!
Odie swanegan

odie swanegan - December 18, 2024 at 09:19 PM

PC

“ I worked at various NRCS offices in Central and SW Missouri, including our Warrensburg office. I remember Ralph as being soft-spoken and very knowledgeable. He was someone everyone truly liked and respected. Condolences to the family during this great loss...

Pamela Cornelius - December 18, 2024 at 02:00 PM

EC

“ Rest in peace, Ralph. Blessings for your family. Ernie (Ernest) Collins

Ernie Collins - December 18, 2024 at 12:39 PM

WC

“ Ralph was a great guy. I worked with him a few times and remember when we were Detailed to New York and working on road stabilization projects. He was a very knowledgeable man and had a honorable work ethic. He will be greatly missed.

Wallace Corey - December 18, 2024 at 11:51 AM

GR

“ My deepest sympathy to the entire Collins family. I had the pleasure of working with Ralph, not only on conservation projects on our farm, but also while we served together on the school board. His kind, patient demeanor will always be remembered....what a great guy!!

GARY DEAN RIEKHOF - December 17, 2024 at 06:09 PM

MK

“ So very sorry to hear about your dad, AJ, I am thinking about you and your family

Mary King - December 17, 2024 at 04:47 PM

CO

“ I am so sorry for your loss AJ. I will be praying for you and your entire family.

Cody - December 17, 2024 at 02:27 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Ralph Lester Collins.



December 17, 2024 at 01:57 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Ralph Lester Collins.

December 17, 2024 at 01:57 PM

KA

“ I am so sorry for your loss AJ. I will be praying for you and your entire family.

Katharine - December 17, 2024 at 01:56 PM

JJ

“ So sorry for your loss. You and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.

Julie Jordan - December 17, 2024 at 01:50 PM

AH

“ So very sorry for your loss. May you find comfort in your memories.

Amber Hogan - December 17, 2024 at 01:44 PM